

Workforce Observations

For The North Central WDA

September, 2002



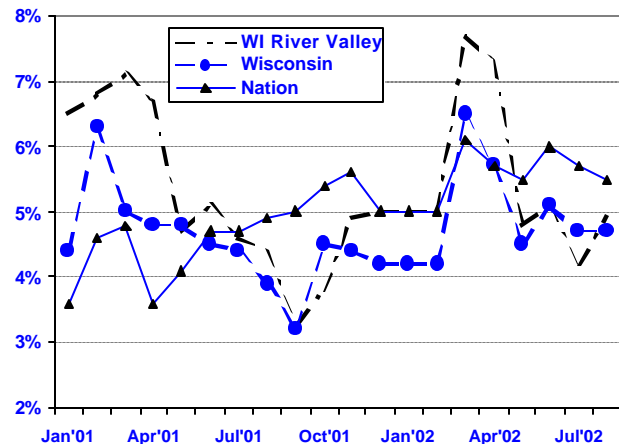
August Job Numbers Are A Bit Of A Disappointment

Industrial Employment—District-Wide—The Early fall month of August is usually noted as one of the higher employment months of the year (though seldom the highest), at least as good in most respects as June or July. Historically in the Upper Wisconsin River District, this has been the case. This year, to some degree at least, may be an exception. Compared to the previous month, job numbers are down in several areas, though the declines are not large.

Those industries in the goods producing sector lost a little over 400 positions in August compared to July, mainly in **durable goods manufacturing**. This may be a reflection of a slowdown in certain businesses making building components and related items, but there also seems to be a general falloff in orders, not only locally but throughout the region and the nation. Compared to the same period of 12 months ago, things are

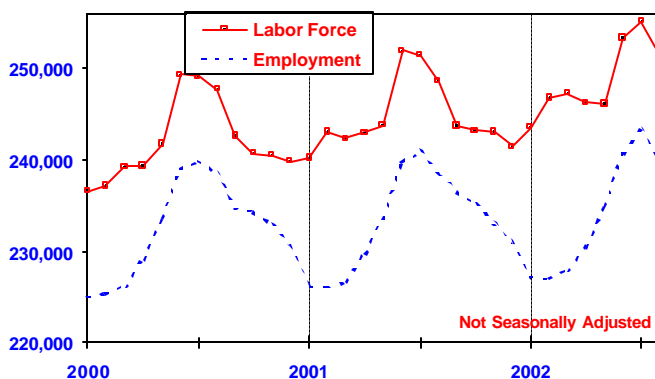
age of **trade**, with a good jump over last year but a weak showing more recently. The employment increases in these sectors from a year or so ago

The Unemployment Rate
Most Recent Month - Aug '02



are encouraging, but it is hard to say if this is just a natural (and temporary) increase in jobs, or some indication of prosperity. The job situation of the last few months seems to point to the former. Evidence for the latter is getting harder to find these days.

Civilian Labor Force
Wisconsin River Valley



even tighter, with a loss in manufacturing of about 2,100 jobs throughout the nine county River District. **Total trade** could only be said to be holding it's own in August compared to July, although there was a positive job gain compared to last year, of over 2,300 jobs. Growth in **services & misc.** was almost a mirror in-

The Core Counties—Total nonfarm employment levels declined very little in Portage Counties, and were generally a mirror image of July's totals. Manufacturing was strong in August, with nondurable goods actually picking up a few in Portage. This sector is being watched with unusual interest in the Core area, as well as other areas of the River District and the state, as the situation in the paper industry slowly resolves itself. Employment in trade was off a bit in Portage and Wood, but gained a few jobs in Marathon County. Generally, these largest of the River Counties seem to have fared a bit better than the state as a whole, due mainly to industrial diversity more than anything else.

Please visit the Marathon County Job Center Website!
We are presently housed at a temporary location at Tripod and
can be found at this addie—
<http://freelmi.tripod.com/maracent.html>

The Northern Counties—The job situation in Forest, Vilas, Oneida, Lincoln, and Langlade Counties was essentially the same as in the larger areas to the south, with little fluctuation in employment levels compared to the previous month. However, it would appear that trade gained a few positions, while manufacturing was off by over 700, part of which decline may be attrib-

uted to a major plant closing in the city of Rhinelander. Nonetheless, compared to the slump of over 2,000 manufacturing jobs in all of the nine River counties, it appears that the more rural areas of the north are not unique. The general economic lassitude of the summer seems to have descended on the whole district labor market.



BUILD WISCONSIN

Build Wisconsin is an initiative that, for the first time, will bring together all players in the Wisconsin economy. Please visit this site for more information—

http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/build_wis.asp

| Month of August | Adams | Forest | Lang. | Lincoln | Mara. | Oneida | Portage | Vilas | Wood | Region |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Labor Force | 9,198 | 5,093 | 9,616 | 14,981 | 77,543 | 23,844 | 38,914 | 12,884 | 42,515 | 234,588 |
| Employed | 8,878 | 4,807 | 9,028 | 14,140 | 74,653 | 22,794 | 36,992 | 12,538 | 40,015 | 223,845 |
| Unemployed | 320 | 286 | 588 | 841 | 2,890 | 1,050 | 1,922 | 346 | 2,500 | 10,743 |
| Unemployment rate(%) | 3.5 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 2.7 | 5.9 | 4.6% |
| Total, all industries** | 4,529 | 3,528 | 7,877 | 12,155 | 70,560 | 19,255 | 32,930 | 9,964 | 44,884 | 205,682 |
| Construction & Mining | 211 | 124 | 381 | 401 | 2,874 | 1,564 | 1,123 | 1,012 | 1,696 | 9,386 |
| Manufacturing | 429 | 465 | 1,649 | 3,861 | 18,376 | 1,817 | 6,795 | 464 | 9,692 | 43,548 |
| Transportation & Util. | 207 | 229 | 379 | 429 | 4,184 | 644 | 2,048 | 212 | 3,279 | 11,611 |
| Wholesale Trade | 130 | 39 | 349 | 400 | 5,473 | 556 | 1,487 | 261 | 1,480 | 10,175 |
| Retail Trade | 887 | 548 | 1,848 | 2,311 | 13,650 | 5,576 | 5,952 | 2,928 | 7,948 | 41,648 |
| FIRE | 98 | 107 | 265 | 750 | 4,752 | 459 | 3,603 | 302 | 971 | 11,307 |
| Services | 1,418 | 496 | 2,034 | 1,988 | 14,349 | 6,164 | 7,300 | 2,651 | 15,114 | 51,514 |
| Government | 1,149 | 1,520 | 972 | 2,015 | 6,902 | 2,475 | 4,622 | 2,134 | 4,704 | 26,493 |
| Change from previous mo. | Adams | Forest | Lang. | Lincoln | Mara. | Oneida | Portage | Vilas | Wood | Region |
| Civilian Labor Force* | -27 | -43 | 25 | 228 | 755 | 544 | 491 | 375 | 840 | 3,188 |
| Employed | -25 | -22 | 124 | 211 | 809 | 667 | 423 | 366 | 589 | 3,142 |
| Unemployed | -2 | -21 | -99 | 17 | -54 | -123 | 68 | 9 | 251 | 46 |
| Unemployment rate(%) | 0.0 | -0.4 | -1.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.6 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Total, all industries** | 49 | 19 | 19 | -26 | 142 | -573 | -90 | 92 | -120 | -488 |
| Construction & Mining | -4 | 1 | 1 | -31 | -91 | -2 | -10 | 7 | 1 | -128 |
| Manufacturing | -10 | -14 | -14 | 23 | -110 | -107 | 26 | 8 | -95 | -293 |
| Transportation & Util. | -4 | 3 | 3 | -5 | 38 | 7 | -9 | 8 | 31 | 72 |
| Wholesale Trade | -12 | 1 | 1 | -9 | 5 | -3 | -29 | 0 | -4 | -50 |
| Retail Trade | -22 | 23 | 23 | -14 | 250 | -52 | 0 | -35 | -16 | 157 |
| FIRE | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | -13 | -3 | -1 | 1 |
| Services | 85 | 15 | 15 | 4 | 108 | -270 | -1 | 4 | 117 | 77 |
| Government | 15 | -11 | -11 | 1 | -66 | -148 | -54 | 103 | -153 | -324 |
| Change from year ago | Adams | Forest | Lang. | Lincoln | Mara. | Oneida | Portage | Vilas | Wood | Region |
| Civilian Labor Force* | 699 | 446 | -171 | 122 | 463 | 1,680 | 1,012 | 982 | 1,377 | 6,610 |
| Employed | 679 | 418 | -114 | -47 | 134 | 1,615 | 743 | 888 | 628 | 4,944 |
| Unemployed | 20 | 28 | -57 | 169 | 329 | 65 | 269 | 94 | 749 | 1,666 |
| Unemployment rate(%) | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.5 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 0.1 |
| Total, all industries** | 380 | 321 | -28 | -201 | -141 | 228 | 358 | 777 | 124 | 1,818 |
| Construction & Mining | 15 | -10 | -114 | -237 | -723 | 84 | -269 | -87 | -346 | -1,687 |
| Manufacturing | 30 | -43 | -55 | -325 | -828 | -206 | -101 | -75 | -507 | -2,110 |
| Transportation & Util. | 24 | 27 | 27 | 24 | 210 | -23 | 124 | -42 | 77 | 448 |
| Wholesale Trade | 17 | -6 | -128 | -23 | 277 | 164 | -144 | 117 | 51 | 325 |
| Retail Trade | -44 | 15 | -63 | -101 | 1,283 | 64 | 585 | 386 | -129 | 1,996 |
| FIRE | -4 | 8 | 2 | 494 | -97 | -10 | -133 | -17 | 47 | 290 |
| Services | 286 | -29 | 370 | 70 | -96 | 153 | -150 | 90 | 680 | 1,374 |
| Government | 56 | 359 | -67 | -103 | -167 | 2 | 446 | 405 | 251 | 1,182 |

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI
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